

Meet Miss. Alyssa Bormes – our new Youth Minister!



J.M.J.

It was October 2002 in Assisi, Italy when I prayed with the Cross of San Damiano for the first time, which is the Cross that spoke to St. Francis telling him to rebuild the Church. After Francis died, St. Clare had the Cross brought to her as she was unable to make the trek to the Cross any longer. It was St. Francis who had given St. Clare the Franciscan habit years earlier. On that day in October 2002, I came to understand that a part of what I was to do with my life was to work with children, with youth. It should be no surprise then that Fr. Dufner called me on August 11th, the Feast of St. Clare, and asked me to be the youth minister at Holy Family. On one end of the phone was the persuasive Fr. Dufner, and spiritually next to me was St. Clare. Who could say “no” under these conditions? And so, I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity and to have accepted the position as youth minister at Holy Family.

To give you a bit of background – I come from a large Catholic family from South Dakota. It was in 1985 that I moved to Minnesota. At the time, I never intended on staying, but as of 2011, there are no plans to leave. My life has been full of twists and turns, some quite wonderful, some not so wonderful. However, all the good and bad led me to one place, The Church. The past twelve years have been an amazing journey having rediscovered the Faith and the beauty of the Catholic Church. This includes having received my Masters in Catholic Studies from St. Thomas, having been the DRE at St. Peter in North St. Paul, and most recently, having taught at the Chesterton Academy. My current project includes writing a book, The Catechism of Hockey, which will soon be completed.

At Holy Family, the youth program is well established and it will be a great way for you, the youth, to get to know me, and me to get to know you. My manner of teaching and speaking is through analogy. You will come to expect that my seemingly unrelated stories always return to a Catholic teaching, and the correctness of the teaching. This will best be illustrated as I give you bits and pieces of The Catechism of Hockey, which is an analogy between hockey and the Church.

Our final goal is heaven. On earth we must know, love, and serve God. We will know Him through our speakers. We will love Him in Adoration. And we will serve Him in our service projects. In all of these things, we will find overlap. For example, our speakers may teach us in a manner that brings us to love Him more. In Adoration, we will come to know Him; and in service, we will recognize the same Christ that we met in Adoration.

Thank you so very kindly for giving me this opportunity. May God bless the youth abundantly!

In Christ,

Miss Bormes